

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-19, 21 and 23-27 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended by the foregoing amendment – claims 4, 14, 20 and 22 having been canceled previously. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in discussing this application via telephone. In accordance with this discussion, claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended in anticipation of a more favorable examination.

Claims 1-3, 10-13 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The independent claims (1, 11 and 21) have been amended to recite the step of "displaying" as suggested. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejected is respectfully requested.

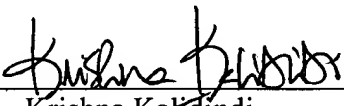
Claims 1-3, 5, 10, 11-13, 15, 21 and 23 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Yahoo search engine ("Yahoo") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,721,736 ("Krug"). Claims 6-9, 16-19 and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yahoo in view of Krug and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,745,161 ("Arnold").

As discussed during the interview, Yahoo displays a plurality of categories and subcategories, corresponding to separate layers, simultaneously. The amendments to claims 1, 11 and 21 above clearly distinguish exemplary embodiments from Yahoo by reciting that the displayed items all correspond to the same layer within the hierarchical structure.

At least for these reasons, it is believed that claims 1, 11 and 21 are allowable over the combined teachings of Yahoo and Krug. The remaining claims, all of which depend on one of claims 1, 11 and 21, are also allowable.

All of the rejections and objections having been overcome, it is believed this application is in condition for allowance and a prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to expediting the prosecution of this application, he is strongly urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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